



CDSS

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Children's Residential Care Update

SEPTEMBER 2008

This is our third quarter *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2008. We are in the sixteenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed about licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this Update with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

Our *Updates* are also available online at the new California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclld.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.

ROBERT PATE ACTING CHIEF OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND POLICY BRANCH AND SERGIO RAMIREZ, ACTING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The CCLD is pleased to announce that Statewide Children's Residential Program Administrator, Robert Pate, has been temporarily assigned as the Acting Branch Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch. Assistant Program Administrator, Sergio Ramirez, is acting as the Statewide Children's Residential Program Administrator. *Congratulations, Robert and Sergio!*

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (EMSA) TRAINING PROGRAMS

If you are a Children's Residential facility administrator, staff, or foster parent seeking First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or preventive health and safety training that meets California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22 requirements, you have the option to take this training from a training program approved by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). The CCR requires First Aid and CPR training to be taken from a qualified agency [CCR sections 83075(f) and 89405(a)] or qualified person [CCR sections 80075(i), 84265(c)(3), 86065(d)(2) and (3), and 86575(d)]. The CCR requires preventive health and safety training for facility managers [CCR section 84265(c)(1)(D)] and houseparent's [CCR section 84265(i)(3)(A)] in Group Homes caring

for children under six and permits this training for lead caregivers in Crisis Nurseries [CCR section 86565(s)(A)].

EMSA-approved courses include:

Pediatric First Aid and CPR Training These courses cover how to respond to emergency illnesses and injuries that may happen to children, including calling 9-1-1. Covered illnesses or injuries include asthma attacks, choking, diabetes, seizures, burns, bleeding, cuts and scrapes, head injuries, choking, shock, respiratory distress, and insect bites and stings. Trainees are taught to splint fractures, perform rescue breathing, CPR, and use the Automated External Defibrillator.

Preventive Health and Safety Practices These courses cover the prevention of communicable illness, including immunization information, and injury prevention. Covered topics include sanitation, safe food handling, child abuse prevention, playground safety, transportation safety (including car seats), field trip safety, illness assessment, care of the mildly ill child, and community resources for further information regarding these topics.

When you have taken either of these trainings from an EMSA-approved training program, they are required to provide you with a course completion sticker for each First Aid, CPR, and preventive health and safety practices course completion card that they issue. You should ensure that you have a course completion card with this sticker attached for CCLD review during licensing visits.

To locate a list of approved EMSA training providers and provider contact information or for information about EMSA training programs, please go to the EMS Authority website at www.emsa.ca.gov. Click on the yellow “EMS Personnel” tab at the top of the page. Click on “First Aid/CPR” in the blue area below the yellow tab. Click on “Child Care and Bus Driver Training Information” in the First Aid/CPR section on the page. Scroll down the page to view training information and approved training programs.

You may also contact Lucy Chaidez at (916) 322-4336, extension 434 for information regarding First Aid and CPR training and Tim DeHerrera at (916) 322-4336, extension 427 for information regarding preventive health and safety practices training and complaints regarding the training.

POLICY CHANGE REGARDING STRIP SEARCHES IN CHILDREN’S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

The CCLD recently released an Information Release (IR) dated July 14, 2008 that explains CCLD policy on Strip Searches of Children in Out of Home Care. This policy applies to all Children’s Residential facilities except for Community Treatment Facilities. You may view the policy at <http://cclcd.ca.gov/PG493.htm>.

REGULATIONS DOCKET

Family Connections: New Family Connections for Foster Youth, Care Provider Training, and Agency Reference Checks regulations became effective on August 8, 2008. An Information Release on these regulations will be released shortly. The regulations can be obtained from the Office of Regulations Development (ORD) website at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG1777.htm>.

These regulations support family connections for foster youth as mandated by Assembly Bill (AB) 1412 (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2005), outline new foster care training requirements as mandated by AB 458 (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003), and require foster family agencies to conduct reference checks for new certified family home applicants as mandated by AB 2661 (Chapter 643, Statutes of 2004).

Foster Family Homes: CDSS staff have completed revisions to the proposed Foster Family Homes regulations. These regulations will implement legislation, input from the Children's Residential Regulations Review Workgroup, and needed changes identified by the Department. It is expected that a public hearing on these regulations will be scheduled later this year. Public hearing information will be posted on the ORD website under "Regulation Changes in Process/Completed Regulations", in "Public Hearing Information" at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG321.htm>.

These regulations will implement several pieces of legislation that include: AB 408 (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003), which entitled foster children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities; AB 458 (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003), which established nondiscrimination for all persons who provide care and services to children in foster care; AB 1116 (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2005) which authorized designated, trained caregivers who are not licensed health care providers to administer emergency medical assistance and/or injections for specific reasons to a foster child in placement; AB 1514 (Chapter 120, Statutes of 2007), which specified that psychotropic medication may be administered to a child who is a ward of the court with a court order; Senate Bill (SB) 358 (Chapter 628, Statutes of 2005) which established the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and exempted short-term babysitters from regulatory requirements for criminal background check, health screening, and CPR training; and SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005), which defined a "Whole Family Foster Home" and required a "Shared Responsibility Plan" for a minor parent and caregiver with regard to the minor parent's child.

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY WEB APPLICATION

The Foster Family Agency (FFA) Web Application went live May 1, 2008. The web application allows FFAs to certify and decertify, and edit certified family home information. Approximately 70 percent of all FFAs statewide are using the web application and CCLD hopes to see 100 percent participation in the near future. If your

agency is not using the web application, please contact your local licensing office to assist you in getting started.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

2008 Foster Family Agency Conference: This year's statewide FFA conference is hosted by the Pacific Inland Children's Residential Program Regional Office. The FFA conference will be held on October 16th and 17th at the Pechanga Hotel in Temecula. The cost is \$150 if registration payment is received before September 29, 2008. After September 29, 2008, the cost is \$175. Registration letters and scholarship nomination forms will be sent out shortly. For more information, please contact Florence Manos, Regional Manager, at (951) 782-6642.

Group Home Conference: A Group Home conference, co-sponsored by the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, the Northern California Placement Committee and CCLD will take place spring of 2009. More information will follow in the next *Update*.

USING ONLINE TRAINING TO MEET TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

CDSS permits administrators, staff, and caregivers in Children's Residential facilities and homes to fulfill initial and annual training requirements through online training. Group Home (GH) staff are permitted to take online training with the following exceptions:

- Certified GH Administrators must take all hours of initial certification training in a classroom setting by a vendor approved by CDSS, but may take up to 20 hours of continuing education through online courses every two years (Health and Safety Code section 1522.41).
- GH staff must satisfy all initial training requirements by completing coursework in a workshop, seminar, classroom, individual or small group setting [California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 84065(i)(4)].
- Facility managers in GH caring for children under six may not take a home study or online course to meet the 15 hours of preventive health training requirements [CCR section 84265(c)(1)(B)].
- Any online emergency intervention training must include a hands-on competency test [CCR section 84365(b)(6)].

If you have taken online training to meet initial or annual training requirements and have a current proof of training that meets the requirements for documentation of training in regulations, CDSS will accept this training. An Evaluator Manual update is being prepared to provide this clarification for licensing staff. If you have questions about this clarification on online training, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312.

STATEWIDE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OFFICE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HAS MOVED

Effective Monday, June 9, 2008, the Children's Residential Program Office in Southern California moved from Culver City to Monterey Park. Their new address is:

1000 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 300, Mail Station 29-17
Monterey Park, CA 91754
(323) 981-3850

TELL US HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE *UPDATE*

Would you and your colleagues like to receive our *Update* electronically via e-mail or in hard copy format? Please let Marisa Lopez of our staff know your preferences by sending her an e-mail at Marisa.Lopez@dss.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 323-1372.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for state and county licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the new CCLD home page at <http://www.cclld.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area" or "County Licensed Facilities" link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Robert Pate, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Jo Frederick

JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures